

## Chapter 40

Sierra

"I can't thank you enough for taking the time to teach me all of this." I said, gesturing to all of the books and folders scattered across my desk.

"It's an honor. It is nice being needed again." Sylvia smiled, closing the practice budget report she had just had me compose.

It has been over a week since the former Luna and Queen, who was also my mother-in-law, Sylvia, started teaching me how to fulfill my new role. There was so much more to it than I had anticipated. I guess seeing my mom do it growing up, I neglected how much work she put in. In my childish mind, all I saw was my mom getting us ready for school and making dinner and helping us with homework

afterwards. I missed the part where she accompanied my father to meetings, visited the hospital to check on the injured, planned events, handled finances, and was basically a mother figure to all of the pack, plus more. It was a bit daunting. Being that I was not only going to be Luna to a pack of mostly of lycans, I was also going to be Queen of the entire Northern territory. That came with a whole new set of expectations I was wildly underprepared for.

"I have three more books for you to read. I regret to tell you that they are less than interesting. All about diplomacy, you'll need to know it for when you meet the other kings. There are certain unspoken protocols that are followed." She said, setting the stack of books on my

"Thank you. I've almost finished with the others you gave me." I smiled, picking up one of the books.

"Already?!"

"I love to read, it hardly matters what."

"Well, goddess bless you, I could hardly get through the first cheaper of that one your holding. I wish you luck." She laughed.

"Knock knock!" Ella said from the doorway. "Sorry to interrupt, but I was hoping we could send out the invitations for your Luna ceremony today? Its only three weeks away now."

"Yes! Lets get that out of the way." I nodded and waved her in.

"Come sit." Sylvia said from the couch, scooting over to make room.

I got up from my desk and waddled over

to the other side of the couch where there were two recliners. I decided to take Edward up on his offer to let me redecorate, but only for my office. Although Hope's style was well, gorgeous, it lacked comfort. And being pregnant as I was, I needed comfort.

"Okay so, here are the invitations, per your request." Ella said, handing each of us an invitation.

"Ella, these are gorgeous!" I said, looking over the silver and gold invitation.

"Classy yet sophisticated, well done," Sylvia complimented. Ella beamed with pride at the praise.

"I have already asked Edward for his guest list, which I have here. I just need yours." Ella said, looking at me expectantly.

"Let me go grab it." I said, standing up

Let me go grab it," I said, standing up awkwardly from the chair. I reached inside my desk, grabbing the sticky note that was my guest list. "Here ya go." I said, passing it to Ella.

"Only two?" Sylvia asked.

"I thought that was good, all things considered." I shrugged.

"Well, alright then. I'll have these sent out today." Ella smiled.

"Can I look at Edwards guest list?" I asked.

"Sure." Ella said, handing me the list.

There were far more than two, but not as many as I had anticipated for a king. His immediate family, obviously, the other kings, the council, his Gamma and Delta, and a few dozen others who I didn't know.

They were probably someone very important though to have made the list.

We weren't inviting the entire pack. We had decided to forgo the massive Luna celebration for summertime, when things would be calmer and warmer and I would be less pregnant.

"If you haven't found a dress yet, I would like to offer my services to you." Ella said, taking my attention away from the list.

"You sew?" I asked.

"She does, and her work is exquisite! You should take her up on the offer." Sylvia exclaimed.

"How could I refuse? I would love it if you made my dress Ella!" I smiled.

"Edward may have given me some inspiration already. I would like to surprise you with it if that is alright?"

"Absolutely!"

"Perfect, then if you don't mind me grabbing some measurements," She asked, pulling out a tape measure. She quickly started wrapping it around my body, jotting the numbers down on her notepad. "I won't finish the dress until the night before, your baby is going to grow a lot in the next three weeks and I want to make sure the dress fits perfectly."

"I am huge already, I cant believe I still have about three weeks to go." I sighed.

"Edward was quite a large baby, and given the fact that you are a werewolf and he is a lycan, that doesn't help your cause. I wish you luck with labor and delivery." Sylvia chuckled.

"Is it as bad as they say?" I asked, scrunching my face up.

"Worse. But you forget all about it

afterwards." Sylvia laughed.

"Great." I said, feeling uneasy.

"You'll be fine, you'll have your mate by your side and a well-trained team ready to go and all the pain meds you could ask for." Ella laughed.

"Speaking of which, when will you be giving me grandchildren Ella? Its been quite a few years since you and Jackson have marked each other, I would have thought you would have a whole litter of pups by now." Sylvia asked.

Ellas's face fell, her eyes welling up with unshed tears. "Whenever the Moon Goddess will allow it, we are more than ready." She said, taking another measurement.

"Ella, I don't mean to pry, but how long have you been trying for?" I asked, stopping her from continuing



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"Over five years." She wiped a rogue tear from her face. "We have tried everything. The doctors can't explain why we can't conceive. They said we should look into adoption or a surrogate at this point."

"Oh, Ella, I had no idea, I'm so sorry for bringing it up." Sylvia said, looking mortified.

"Can I try something?"

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"Are you sure about this?" Ella asked as she watched me flitter around my kitchen.

"Well, I have never actually tried this on a person, but I practiced it when I was at the coven." I looked through the cupboards in search for a mortar and pestle. Our kitchen was state of the art

with all the fun toys. I was sure there would be one somewhere.

I had just spent the last hour looking for specified plants in the garden, knowing Edward would probably flip if I went any further on my own. After successfully finding all the components I was looking for, I got to work. Sylvia left to go see Abby, giving us some privacy, and Edward was out somewhere doing something. With it being just me and Ella, she opened up to me a lot more about her fertility struggles. She had gone through so many treatments and testing and exams it wasn't even funny. She and Jackson wanted a pup so badly. I knew what I was doing, but my confidence fell a bit. I worried if this didn't work for some reason and I just got her hopes up for nothing, she would resent me forever. She probably secretly does already. I wasn't even trying to get pregnant and now here I

even trying to get pregnant and now here I am approaching my due date. It didn't seem fair.

"What is all the stuff anyway? You look like a mad scientist." She said, looking over the items on the counter. Adaline had packed my bag full of everything I needed to cast spells of all sorts, including some less common ingredients. I had a small cauldron heating up on the stove, along with half a dozen apothecary jars filled with all sorts of base ingredients. I pulled my spell-book out just to double check my work as I went, making sure I followed every step perfectly.

"I kinda feel like one." I laughed. "Its basically a witches spell casting starter pack." Ella laughed and watched me intently. I tried to narrate everything I was doing. "Im breaking down the plants into

intensity. I tried to narrate everything I was doing. "I'm breaking down the plants into a paste before I put them into the cauldron to cook." I said, scraping the contents into the cauldron. "While that boils, I will grab my base ingredients which are what help the magic along."

Ella asked me a lot of questions, fascinated by it all. Half an hour later, I was pouring the cauldron out, the liquid being strained through a cheesecloth into a teacup, reciting the old incantation. "High priestess take favor, grant this family a child sooner than later." I stirred it to help it cool down before handing Ella the teacup. "Drink up."

"Is-is it safe?" She hesitantly asked.

"Definitely." I laughed. I squeezed the majority of the liquid out of the remains held in the cheesecloth and put it into a bowl while Ella drank the tea.

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"Wow, that is bitter." She scrunched her face up but continued to drink.

"Sorry, I wish I could make it better."

"Do your eyes always light up purple when you cast spells?" She asked.

"They lit up purple? I never knew, that's interesting." I said, coming around the kitchen island to where Ella was sitting with what looked like a bowl of mud. "Lift your shirt please." She hesitated but eventually stood up and lifted the hem of her shirt up slightly. I scooped up some of my muddy looking paste and spread it over her stomach just under her belly button before saying the last part of the spell. "So does this child grow in love and in harmony."

"They lit up again." Ella smiled, taking a sip of her tea while I started cleaning

sip of her tea while I started cleaning up.

"Really? It must be a witch thing I never knew about. I guess I never really watched someone cast a spell, I was just given instructions and followed along....Oh, one last thing, you and Jackson need to get down to business tonight. You have twenty-four hours before the spell is null and void." I said, wiggling my eyebrows.

"But I'm not in heat..."

"That doesn't matter, the spell will take care of that. Now go find your man and have fun!"

"That shouldn't be a problem." She said downing her tea. "I'm going to go find him right now." She smirked and gave me a wink before saying her goodbyes and leaving to find Jackson.

"....."

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"Good luck!" I laughed.

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Ella

"Good luck!" Sierra's words kept ringing in my head. I don't understand much about magic or spells, nor do I pretend to, but I hoped this worked. I didn't feel any different, except maybe a bit queasy from drinking what tasted like dirt water. I swear I thought I saw her add dirt to it.

*"Jackson, where are you?"* I linked my mate when I couldn't find him in our home.

*"Patrol, I have an all-nighter. Seth's mate just delivered so I'm covering for him. Don't wait up for me."*

*Don't wait up for me."*

No! No! No! Are you kidding me right now?! Of all the times! I growled in annoyance.

*"I need you to come home tonight. Find someone else to cover", I shot back.*

*"Is everything okay?"*

*"I-we need to try tonight."*

*"Ella, I thought we had talked about this, I thought we were going to take a break from trying and just focus on us? You know how depressed you got last time. I don't want to see you like that again."*

*"Jackson, please. I promise this will be the last time. Please just come home tonight."*

He didn't answer me for a few minutes. I paced the house contemplating if I should go out looking for him.



should go out looking for him.

*"Alright, I got someone to cover. I'll be home in an hour."*

Yes!! I was practically bouncing out of my skin in excitement. To distract myself, I made Jackson and I an aphrodisiac dinner. Oysters to start, steak with asparagus for dinner and chocolate covered strawberries for dessert. I lit a few candles and even changed into a sexy little teddy I had tucked away for special occasions. Anything to try to set the mood.

*"Eloise, is it hot in here?"* I asked my wolf. Fanning myself with a magazine. This almost felt like my heat cycle.

*"No, I think we are going into heat."* She answered, confused herself.

*"That dirt tea works fast, I guess."*

*"That dirt tea works fast, I guess."*

"Hey Baby, I'm home." Jackson said, strolling through the elevator door that led to our floor of the palace. His scent hit me like a brick wall, igniting my libido. As soon as he stepped over the threshold, I jumped him, taking him by surprise. "Its nice to see you too". He laughed. "Wait, are you in heat?" He asked in disbelief.

"Mhm." I continued to kiss him, barely able to let him get a breath in.

"I thought you weren't due for another month?" He said, setting me down on the couch and yanking off his shirt. "You look f\*\*\*\*\*g gorgeous." His eyes were now black, filled with lust, his extra appendage noticeably hard even through his jeans.

"Its a long story, just focus." I said, unbuckling his belt and pulling his pants and boxers to the ground. I grabbed his manhood and took it in my mouth, giving it a few good bobs before Jackson practically ripped me off of him and tore my lingerie off. He pushed me back onto the couch and kissed his way down my body, stopping when he came across the mud on my skin.

"Why is there mud on your stomach?" He said, pulling away, probably to get a towel.

"Never mind that! f\*\*k me!" I hissed. Jackson looked at me in shock. I almost never use swear words.

"Yes ma'am." He smirked and continued kissing my body, avoiding the dried patch of mud on my lower belly. His tongue played with my clit while his fingers did

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"Yes ma'am." He smirked and continued kissing my body, avoiding the dried patch of mud on my lower belly. His tongue played with my clit while his fingers did what they did best. He brought me so close to my peak but stopped short, slamming his manhood into me instead in one foul swoop. My body readily accepted him, my walls clenching down on him. He threw my legs over his shoulders and slowly thrust in and out of me, driving me wild.

"Faster" I begged.

He grunted and picked up the pace, putting more of his weight into it as well. I could feel myself reaching my climax and Jackson getting harder within me. I vaguely remember screaming out his

and Jackson getting harder within me. I vaguely remember screaming out his name when he swiped his thumb over my clit. We came at the same time, our bodies melding together. Our pants filled the otherwise silent room. Another reminder of just how much I wanted a pup. Jackson pulled out of me and I kicked my legs up onto the back of the couch, hoping that if nothing else, gravity would be on my side.

"Ella..."

"Shut up." I said, a tear streaming down my face. Years of disappointment welling up within me.

Jackson wordlessly sat down next to me and held my hand. I hoped I could give him a pup. I prayed that this time would be different. We sat there for a good ten minutes before I finally sat back up,

and held my hand. I hoped I could give him a pup. I prayed that this time would be different. We sat there for a good ten minutes before I finally sat back up, leaning into my mate's embrace.

"I love you no matter what," he said, kissing my head.

I nodded at my supportive mate, grateful that the moon goddess gave me him. Another wave of heat soon came over me, making me hot and bothered all over again. I guess we weren't done.



SassAss

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I honestly didn't think I would get this posted tonight. My little guy went to bed late and hubby called me to do math at 1am 0\_o lord help me.

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21/22



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